

# COVID-19: Preparing for Re-Occupancy

## Baseline Facility Re-Occupancy Assessments for K-12 & Higher Education



The COVID-19 pandemic has shuttered nearly 100,000 educational institutions nationwide. First and foremost, the most critical goal is to protect our people. To do that, you need to think holistically about workplace safety.

During these temporary building vacancies, routine maintenance and inspections stalled. As a result, environmental and occupant safety challenges surfaced. These can range from moisture intrusion and mold growth to water leaks and bacteria/possible Legionella growth in water systems, leaking chemical containers and above ground storage tanks (ASTs). Building functionality, once relatively seamless, now ripples with disruptive impacts. For example, HVAC systems, designed to operate based on normal working and seasonal conditions, may have not been operating properly to control humidity, which results in widespread mold growth.

Facility managers and environmental, health, and safety (EHS) professionals—like you—must find new ways to solve new challenges daily.

Partnering with a leading health and safety services provider can help.

At Apex, our ready-to-deploy team can address what you're facing now. And prepare you for the post-pandemic future that lies ahead.

### Baseline Facility Re-Occupancy Assessment Solutions

From proper maintenance during a temporary shutdown—which pays off in cost avoidance—to proactive preparation in compliance with current industry standards and regulations to simply facilitating a safe and rapid re-entry process, Apex can help.

It's definitely a new normal. With COVID-19, we can also expect employees, students, and their parents to have heightened sensitivities to building conditions and perceived risk.

To address potential risk and liability, our experts can evaluate your building's condition to prepare for re-occupancy, while assessing the indoor air quality (IAQ) parameters set forth by industry and regulatory standards.

**Under the direction of an American Board of Industrial Hygiene (ABIH) Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), our team provides:**

- Visual inspections with state-of-the-art thermal infrared (IR) cameras to identify factors that can impact your indoor air quality (IAQ) such as water damage, condensation, and moisture intrusion; flooding; visible mold or other apparent microbiological growth;
- Assessments of water-containing components and systems to identify those at high risk from stagnant conditions for bacterial/biological growth such as plumbing fixtures, water treatment systems, water storage tanks, and cooling towers;
- Inspections of floor drain water traps to prevent sewer gas intrusion;



- Reviews of chemical storage areas, hazardous and regulated waste accumulation areas, ASTs, and emergency generator and battery storage rooms for compromised containers, spills, etc.;
- Evaluations of HVAC systems to assess filter replacements, mold, stagnant water, vermin/pests and to inspect/clean humidifiers, cooling coils, and condensate drain pans;
- Inspections of any kitchen/food preparation areas including grease traps for mold and bacterial growth; and
- Identification of unusual odors or other factors that may be a source of IAQ.



### Why Apex?

Our best-in-class team of professionals includes CIHs; IHs; professional engineers (PEs); IAQ experts, environmental scientists; and licensed asbestos, mold, biohazard, and microbial specialists who are also knowledgeable in building sciences including the most up-to-date guidelines for COVID-19 and other regulatory standards.

As one of the largest industrial hygiene firms in the country, we're adept at identifying, preventing, and responding to issues associated with building closures as well as delivering turnkey mold; hazardous materials abatement; water testing and treatment; and COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting services.

### About Apex

Established in 1988, Apex is a national multidisciplinary consulting, engineering, and field services firm with a robust portfolio of capabilities in water resources, environmental services, health & safety, construction management, transportation, and compliance & assurance. Rated #16 as an *ENR* All-Environmental firm and #68 in the top 200 overall, we are known for our technical expertise, rapid response, operational integrity, and exceptional client satisfaction. We operate in all 50 states and maintain a highly capable and diverse team of scientists, engineers, technicians, and information management specialists. For more information, visit [www.apexc.com](http://www.apexc.com).



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